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March, 2005



Half-Penny Sales Tax... It's GONE!

Beginning March 1st we are paying less sales tax on all purchases made in Broken Arrow. As of that date the sales tax rate in Broken Arrow went down to 3 cents on the dollar.

In December, 1998, citizens in Broken Arrow voted to impose a one-half cent sales tax to help fund construction of the Broken Arrow campus of Northeastern State University. The City borrowed money by selling bonds so that construction could begin. The bonds, or loan, were to be paid off with the one-half cent additional sales tax.

The plan would have resulted in the additional sales tax running through May of 2011. However, with the strong growth in sales the City was in the position of paying off the bonds early and eliminating the extra half penny tax.. Although the bonds cannot actually be paid off until May 1 of 2006, the money is accumulated and will be invested until the payment date.

This is a good sign to residents and businesses alike. A key project was undertaken, paid for and the tax will, as promised, go back to its pre-1999 level or 3 cents on the dollar.

City Council Elections Set for April 5

All registered voters in Broken Arrow will have the opportunity to vote on City Council seats from Ward 1 and Ward 2 on Tuesday, April 5. Mayor Richard Carter drew no opponent in Ward 1. Vice-Mayor Craig Thurmond is opposed by Ron Whitaker and Sherman (Bo) Thomas Miller. March 11 is the final day to register and be eligible to vote in the April 5 election.

City's VISION STATEMENT

The Mayor, Council and key City staff members have been involved in a Strategic Planning process over the past several months. They have been working to identify the City organization's strengths and weaknesses, what we are successful doing and what we would like to accomplish.

As a part of this process the group has identified their vision for the future of the City organization as follows:

The City of Broken Arrow will set the standard by providing the best municipal programs and services in our region, while promoting a positive environment for families, business, community organizations and visitors. Broken Arrow will continue to be a community that we are proud to call home.

The City's Vision Statement focuses the effort of the entire organization on a desired direction. The Vision Statement can serve as a strong motivational tool for managers and employees so that all understand the purpose and meaning of our jobs. It is a future oriented statement that provides a goal to reach for.

It also serves as a guidepost for the Mayor and Council in the many decisions they will face in the future. As they weigh different alternatives and wrestle with the tough policy questions ahead, the Vision Statement anchors them to an agreed upon goal. All questions can be referred back to the Vision Statement and whether the proposed answer supports the future vision we have adopted.

The Vision Statement will begin appearing prominently on City materials, publications, web site and television station. It is a statement of what the City believes in and supports.



Mayor Carter

Honoring the Past, Excited About the Future

"I can't wait for Bass Pro to open!" "Have you tried the new restaurant at...?" "Did you hear what they are putting in on the corner of..?" "I can get from home to Indian Springs soccer fields on the South Loop in half the time it used to take." "My daughter's getting the degree she wanted at NSU right here in town, and we're saving a bundle!"

These are typical conversations heard in restaurants, grocery stores, civic club meetings, and across back yard fences all over Broken Arrow. People are excited about the city's growth, with new housing, shopping, jobs, and educational opportunities happening daily.

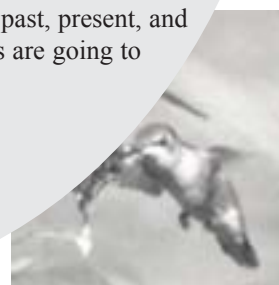
Simultaneously, we recognize and honor the people who labored and planned to make this city so ready for growth. While individuals pass on, some of our institutions have been here since our beginning, and the people who are in them have been key to the growth and quality of life in Broken Arrow.

Historic Main Street is alive and getting better. Arkansas Valley State Bank, First Baptist and First Presbyterian Churches all celebrate a century of existence downtown in 2005! First National Bank and First Methodist Church hit the century mark a few years ago, and several other businesses and churches have been operating in or near downtown for many years, along with newer arrivals. Soon, a new

Historical Society Museum will be built on Main to help us honor our remarkable past.

Broken Arrow is a wonderful mix of past, present, and future. How exciting the next few years are going to be!

Best wishes,
Mayor Richard Carter



Buying Flood Insurance Now Can Save You Dollars, Heartache Later

There's a lot to look forward to when Spring arrives, but there are some reasons to be practical in your approach to warmer -- and wetter! -- weather. Broken Arrow is fortunate not to suffer through the type of rainy season creating so much damage in California this year, but even a small flood limited to a small area can cause more than a little heartache.

One thing you can do to reduce the amount of heartache in the event of flooding is to buy flood insurance. City Stormwater Management officials point out that this is the best means of recovery from flood damages.

Even if your home is not located in the floodplain, you can purchase flood insurance. In fact, more than 25 percent of flood insurance claims come from medium- or low-risk flood areas. Flood insurance is available to any property owner located in the Broken Arrow corporate limits because the City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In 1968 Congress created the NFIP to provide flood insurance at a reasonable cost in exchange for careful management by communities in flood-prone areas. The Mitigation Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages to NFIP and oversees the floodplain management and mapping components of the program.

Flood insurance provides coverage that your homeowners or renters insurance does not -- coverage for damages caused by floods. You can buy flood insurance from any licensed insurance agent or through the NFIP by calling 1-800-427-4661.

Top hon-
ors in the
Police and
Fire depart-
ments from 2004
were presented at
the Chamber of
Commerce
Awards Banquet.
Above, Mayor
Richard Carter
gives the Officer
of the Year
Award to
Christopher
Walker of the
BAPD, while at
right, Ron Carter
of The Arrow Group
hands Firefighter of
the Year Michael Reiss
his award. The Arrow
Group sponsors the awards
each year.



Storm Siren Testing Begins City Blows the Horns

Starting Monday, March 7, weather per-
mitting, the City of
Broken Arrow's
Emergency
Management Team will
begin audible testing of
its storm siren system.
There are 42 sirens
located strategically
throughout the commu-
nity. They are tested
"silently" in the
fall and winter.

In the
spring, how-
ever, audi-
ble tests
are con-
ducted on
the first
Monday
of each
month. If
threatening
weather is
nearby, the
testing will be
postponed to the
following Wednesday.

The storm sirens in
Broken Arrow are designed to be heard by those outside their
homes and businesses, although many residents will hear the
alerts from inside. Tornado warnings consist of a long, wavering
tone that lasts two minutes. Flash flood warnings consist of a long,
steady tone. For samples of the types of warnings and what they
sound like go to the City's web site at www.brokenarrowok.gov/our-citizens/public_safety/severe_weather.htm. You can also access a
map showing the locations of the sirens and links to other helpful
sites. And a reminder: There are no public storm shelters in Broken
Arrow! Also, if you have a storm shelter or "safe room," be sure it is
registered with the City so that in the event of a tornado, rescue
workers will know where to look.

Youth/Community Center Hosting School Nights

Broken Arrow's Youth/Community Center in Nienhuis Park is hosting a series of "School Nights Out" for local students, both public and private schools.

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on those nights, the center is open exclusively to students, faculty and parents from designated schools. The game room, computer lab and other facilities are available. The Center is located just off Lynn Lane between Omaha and Albany. Remaining nights include:

PRIVATE SCHOOLS (ALL GRADES) MARCH 11
ALL SAINTS, SUMMIT, TRINITY
UNION EIGHTH GRADE CENTER MARCH 12
PRIVATE SCHOOLS (ALL GRADES) MARCH 18
NEW COVENANT, IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN, GRACE
ANDERSEN & PETERS ELEMENTARY (UNION) MARCH 19
HOME SCHOOLS (ALL AGES) APRIL 1
McAULIFFE & MOORE ELEMENTARY (UNION) APRIL 2
COUNTRY LANE, LIBERTY APRIL 8
PARK LANE, WESTWOOD APRIL 15
ARROWHEAD, RHOADES APRIL 22
OAKCREST, VANDEVER APRIL 29
WOLF CREEK, LEISURE PARK MAY 6
INDIAN SPRINGS, ARROW SPRINGS, SPRING CREEK MAY 13

Community Calendar

- March 10-13** -- Greater Tulsa Home and Garden Show, featuring a new booth from the City of Broken Arrow.
- March 11** -- Deadline for registering to vote in the April 5 City Council elections.
- March 11, 12** -- Union Highsteppers present 2005 Highstepper Highlights Spring Show Spectacular, "Come Fly with Me." Shows Friday and Saturday nights, starting at 7 p.m.in the Union HS Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$5.
- March 12** -- Project Graduation (BAHS) Crafts and Business Fair at BAHS gym, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, or to participate, call Kimberly Scaffetta at 451-3277 or Cindy Atchley at 455-6363. Project Graduation is a free (to graduation students) program, and the BAHS PTSA is a not-for-profit organization.
- March 12** -- Margaret Hudson's "Beans, Jeans and Bingo" fundraiser, starting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church, 301 S. 9th Street. Chili dinner, Bingo games with prizes and a silent auction. Tickets \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit the Margaret Hudson School.
- March 12** -- 11th Annual New Life Craft Festival at Arrow Heights Baptist Church, 3201 S. Elm Place. Funds raised go to the Arrow Heights Organ Transplant Fund, which is used to pay for transplant-related expenses not covered by insurance. Call 455-5020 for information about booths.
- March 15** -- Jim Giles "Wild, Wild Weather Show" at the BAHS gym, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall	251-5311
Police Department	259-8400
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Public Works	259-8373
Municipal Court	451-8558
Utility Payment	259-8409
After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer	
259-8400	